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TO: Commissioner for Patents
 Attn: Examiner Allen Heinz
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 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FROM: Brendan J. Hanley

OUR REF: 9780.00
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Total pages, including cover letter: 19

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Documents Transmitted: Reply and Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Boutaghout et al
 Serial No.: 09/897,779
 Filed: June 29, 2001
 Group Art Unit: 2653
 Our Ref. No.: 9780.00

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OFFICIALPATENT APPLICATION
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116
EXAMINING GROUP 260011/C
(Act.)
MDJ
1-23-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re App: Boutaghout et al.

Date: January 20, 2004

S.N.: 09/897,779

Docket No.: STL 9780.00

Filed: June 29, 2001

Examiner: Allen Heinz

For: BI-LEVEL CAVITY FOR A SLIDER
AIR-BEARING SURFACE

Art Unit: 2653

REPLY AND AMENDMENTS UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Mail Stop AF
 Commissioner for Patents
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Dear Sir:

Applicant submits the following response 2 months from the Office Action dated November 17, 2003. For the reasons detailed below, the pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance.